As for the grant of permission for grazing foreign cattle free of any fee in the reserved forests, on the face of it, it seems to me that it is unreasonable on your part to ask the Government and the Forest Department not only to allow our own cattle to graze on our grounds but foreign cattle also to graze free of cost. It is not right on your part to plead that cattle outside the State should also have the same privilege. Government at present are not in a position to accept that suggestion of yours. It will be noted.

With regard to the formation of a Tamil Range for purposes of inspecting Tamil Schools, as you yourself admitted, recently the needs of the Tamil language, which is the mother-tongue of the people of Nanjinad, have been recognised by Government and your requests on behalf of the Tamilians have been attended to carefully. It has been the policy of the Government and the Education Department to appoint Tamil-knowing Assistant Inspectors in Tamil areas. It is not possible to insist that a Range Inspector or the head of the Education Department should always be a person who knows Tamil also. But Inspectors or Assistant Inspectors who know Tamil will alone be ordinarily posted in Tamil areas. I do not think there is much ground for your complaint.

68. Needs of Nanjinad.

MR. KANAKKU SIVASUBRAHMANIA PILLAI AZHAKIYA-NAYAKAM PILLAI (*Agastiswaram taluk*) urged the need for raising the surplus level of the Kodayar *marukal* by 3 feet so as to ensure a sufficient supply of water to the newly converted lands. The matter had been brought to the notice of the Government by the Economic Development Board also. Many converted wet lands were now subjected to drought and failure of crops owing to scarcity of water at the proper time. The proposed work was therefore absolutely necessary.

Breaches in the Tovala channel were not closed promptly and consequently the lands commanded by the channel were not getting an adequate supply of water at the proper season. To prevent such breaches, the right bank of the channel adjacent to the hill slopes in Azhakiyapandipuram, Kadukkarai and other places should be strengthened.

The N. P. Channel and other irrigation channels should always be maintained properly by the removal of silt whenever it accumulated and deepening them wherever necessary.

The mission dam at Tamarakulam was a source of danger to an extent of about 5,000 acres of wet land as the Pazhayar was silted to a depth of 10 feet thereby. If the dam was to continue, the river would be flooded and the adjoining paddy lands devastated. There was also a possibility of many lives being lost if such a thing occurred. The dam should therefore be removed without further delay.

The gravelled and ungravelled roads in Nanjinad were in a deplorable condition for want of proper maintenance. The roads should improved at an early date.

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There were no roads leading to the newly converted regions on the banks of the Tovala channel and the ryots were put to much inconvenience in taking their cattle and manure to their lands and in transporting agricultural produce therefrom. New roads should therefore be opened in those regions and the following roads should be taken up for immediate construction :—

(1) a road starting from Marunkur and leading to the Tovala channel *via* Themdanvilai ;

(2) a road from the Mailadi camp-shed to the Tovala channel ;

(3) another road from Kozhikottu Pottai to the channel ; and

(4) extension of the road from Kulasekharam to Puttanar to meet the west branch of the Marutvamalai.

It was regrettable to note that the budget allotments for the maintenance of the Kodayar works were allowed to lapse year by year, while the Terikal and other channels were in need of urgent repairs. The Government should look into the matter and issue the necessary orders to prevent such lapses in future.

The next request of the member was that the Tekkumalai reserve should be thrown open for the free grazing of sheep and goats. The animals were absolutely necessary for the agriculturists for manuring their lands especially when green leaf manure and cattle manure were becoming scarce day by day.

Lastly, the *bona fide* ryots should be allowed to remove, from the forests of Tovala, materials required for making agricultural implements.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Azhakianayakam Pillai, as regards the first point raised in your representation, *viz.*, the raising of the level of the Pechipara dam, I have nothing to add to the reply I gave to the Kalkulam member.

With regard to the second point relating to breaches in the upper reaches of the Tovala channel, it is true that there have been some breaches in past years. But the department is doing as much as it can to stop the breaches by strengthening the banks of the channel every year. The P. W. Department is attending to the maintenance of the irrigation channels every year. But as the stretch of these channels is very large, it may not be possible for the department to finish the whole work in one year. But it is trying its best.

You have suggested the removal of the Mission Dam near Thamarakulam. If that is done, it would accelerate the silting of the Manakudi lake near the salt factories and thus indirectly affect the manufacture of salt adversely.

Your fifth and sixth points relate to roads in Nanjinad and in the newly converted regions. This matter will be referred to the Road Board.

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Your seventh point relates to the lapse of budget grants. You may rest assured that the Government and the P W. Department are equally earnest in their desire to keep the Kodayar works in perfect condition. I may therefore assure you that, except in unavoidable cases, estimates for the maintenance and upkeep of the Kodayar works will not be allowed to lapse.

As regards throwing open the Tekkumala reserve for the free grazing of sheep and goats, I had not also understood the significance of separating the sheep from the goats. But now I understand that the goat is a very dangerous animal from the point of view of forest conservancy, while the sheep is not. I am told that the goats do very great damage to tree-growth and shrubs. For instance, if a small shrub or tree is once bitten by a goat, it withers away. So their admission is dangerous.

Your last point will be considered by the Government.

69. Needs of Nanjinad.

MR. R. RAMASWAMI (*Nominated*) thanked the Government for nominating a Tamil Ezhava member to the Assembly. He then spoke about the need for improving the condition of villages in Nanjinad in regard to sanitation, water supply, roads, dispensaries, reading rooms, etc. The *pakuthies* of Tenganputur, Dharmapuram, Tamarakulam and Kanyakumari were mostly inhabited by the poor and depressed classes. Sanitation was unknown to them and their habits were unclean and consequently epidemics soon spread among them as would be evidenced by the heavy mortality during the epidemic season in 1104. They should therefore be taught the rudiments of hygiene and also instructed to keep their villages in a sanitary condition.

In Puttalam and other places, people were suffering from scarcity of water. Wells should therefore be sunk wherever necessary. There was a big well on the western side of the Parakkai Mankamanavalam Perunteruvu. It was constructed at a cost of about Rs. 2,000 but was now in a very neglected condition. It should be drained and cleaned by removing the $\frac{3}{4}$ dirt and silt and made fit for public use.

The following roads were absolutely necessary in the Parakkai and Tenganputur *pakuthies*:—

(1) A road, two furlongs in length, from Kanthipuram on the 2nd furlong, 2nd mile of the Parakkai road to Suchindrakulam;

(2) a road, 4 furlongs long, from the 1st furlong, 2nd mile of the Parakkai road to Mottayyankudiyirippu;

(3) A road, 4 furlongs long, from the 4th furlong, 2nd mile of the Parakkai road to Vandikudiyirippu, and

(4) A road, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, from the 6th furlong, 3rd mile of the Parakkai road to Pallanturai.

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